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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Shinji SHIMOSAKI

Art Unit: 1795

Application No.: 10/509,250

Examiner: Patel, T. B.

Filed: September 28, 2004

Attorney Dkt. No.: 12054-0029

For: METHOD OF PURIFYING METAL SALT, AND DEOXIDIZING METHOD AND PRODUCTION METHOD OF TITANIUM MATERIAL

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 29, 2008

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2008, Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims.

In review, the Examiner relies on WO 99/64638 to Fray et al. (Fray I) to allege that claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 1 recites a process as follows:

A method of purifying a metal salt which comprises bringing the metal salt formed by melting an alkali metal salt, an alkaline earth metal salt or a mixture thereof into contact with one or more of titanium, titanium alloy, zirconium and zirconium alloy, thereby adsorbing impurities in the metal salt.

This process is alleged to be taught by Fray I at page 9, lines 6-10. The allegation that Fray I teaches the process of claim 1 is in error and the rejection is improper for this reason. Fray I teaches a deoxidation method for removing a